

REMARKS BY VERONICA CALVILLO

[Veronica Calvillo is a sophomore majoring in business and engineering at Seattle University]

Good Evening, I am very honored to have been selected as a scholarship recipient by the Hispanic College Fund. I am especially pleased to have been asked to speak on behalf of this year's scholarship recipients.

I wish to begin by thanking American Airlines for making it possible for ten of us to travel from various parts of the country to be here tonight. I also wish to express my gratitude and appreciation to all the individuals and companies, in particular Eddie Bauer, for making our scholarships possible. This support will enable me and the other recipients to begin or continue our pursuit of a higher education.

This evening, I would like to share with you my story, a little piece of history about who I am and why it means so much to me that I am here standing on this podium as a scholarship recipient. The best place for me to begin is by telling you what I do almost every weekend.

Every weekend when I drive to the city where I grew up, I feel like the most privileged Hispanic on the planet. Why do I feel this way? Well, every weekend I am able to witness two individuals that optimize Hispanic Business Leadership and I am able to learn from them firsthand. You are probably wondering who these people are. The two Hispanic leaders have no education, not even elementary education, and they live in a low-income neighborhood—they are my parents, Angel and Lupe Calvillo are their names, and in my opinion they are the two most successful Hispanic business leaders. I base this opinion on the description of what I believe "Hispanic Business Leadership" is. I believe that a Hispanic leader in business should have the characteristics that are common in the mother and father family figures in Hispanic families. I believe this because running a business is like managing a big family, where the children are the employees and you are there to manage them into becoming successful individuals for their benefit as well as the family, which is a sort of business. My parents were extremely successful in managing their children, or their "employees," into becoming successful individuals. How, you may ask? First of all, I don't think many could argue that Hispanic parents, with their strict and religious way of raising their families, are the most successful at running any kind of family. This is why many Hispanic businesses that are family owned, for instance the explosion of family restaurants, are so successful. The Hispanic businesses are managed with the same leadership skills that my parents had as they were raising their children. The skills my parents embody and that they taught me, in preparation for becoming successful, are summed up in three words; integrity, dignity and faith. Integrity—doing what you say you're going to do, Dignity—meaning your daily actions should bring honor and humility, and Faith—having loyalty to God's teachings and confidence in God's plan for you. Three characteristics needed to be a successful business leader in any community, whether it be Hispanic or not.

My parent's climb to success with their own family happened because they are living every day those three characteristics they taught my brothers, sisters and me.

My parents came to America in 1963 with hopes of a better future for themselves and their children. They have no education whatsoever and to this day, many years later,

barely utter the English language. They were migrant workers in California and Washington. My older siblings vividly remember their childhood when they, too, had to work in the fields, alongside my parents. When my parents first arrived in America, they made a pact with each other that the life they lived was not going to be the destiny of their children. They had arrived in the "land of opportunity," and they would do anything to give their children the best education available to them.

This is exactly what they did. My Dad eventually obtained a job as a welder and my Mom as a motel housekeeper. Although together they averaged a meager income, they were able to send all five of my siblings and me to private schools. I know this seems unimaginably hard to do, but my family succeeded because of my parents' immense faith in God, family, and in this country. My siblings and I obtained jobs at young ages so we could help out financially; we understood and accepted why we couldn't go see a movie on weekends, or why in winter we would double layer our clothes and sleep with our jackets on. Yes, we were poor, but I never really knew my family was poor until I went to Bellarmine Prep. High School and visited my friends elegant homes and saw how they lived. However, I still never felt the negative associations that are usually paired with being poor. I was happy, because God gave me more blessings than money could ever give me. God gave me two extraordinary parents who instilled Christian morals in their children and taught us how to live with integrity and dignity in the eyes of God. Because God is guiding my family, He made our experiences make my family strong and united—truly engulfed in love for one another.

My parents worked hard, harder than any human being should ever have to. They have gone without, so that we wouldn't . . . the most unselfish human act possible . . . and this is why under all my extreme circumstances I prevail. Looking at my father's leathery hands alone send me soaring. Now it is my turn to help them. I have responsibilities after school that few others have. I must fill out forms, pay bills, send letters, read letters, make phone calls for appointments, go to appointments to translate and much more. I do all of this for my parents because they do not speak English, read or write. Sometimes, I feel like I am the parent. It is frustrating at times when I have a test to study for, but can't because I have to translate for my parents somewhere, at some meeting, or appointment, etc. However, I do it because I love them and like I mentioned before, I know their hands are thick and knotted because of the lifetime of work they have done for their children. This is why I am going to college—to further my education and make myself and my parents proud. I have concluded that all of my parents' dreams and hopes live in their children. When we succeed, they have succeeded.

My parents' hard work and the values they instilled in us started to pay-off with my eldest sister—Lorena. She was the first person in my family to even attempt to go to college. She left my parents' home with just her clothes and my parents' blessing. She eventually graduated from Seattle University. I will never forget how my parents felt when they heard my sister's name called out at the graduation. They cried and my Dad cheered wildly, this is something he rarely does. It had been a struggle for her, but finally a Calvillo made it. My sister also set an example for the rest of the family. My twenty-one year old brother is in his second

year at Seattle University, my first cousin, Aida Calvillo (whom worked alongside my sister, Lorena, in the fields with her parents), in 1996 graduated from the University of Washington medical school, and the list continues as more Calvillo's are graduating from college. This is my second week attending Seattle University and I am relishing every moment of it.

My sister utilized her education for others, and preached to her younger siblings the importance of a higher education. She told me my junior year of high school, as I was contemplating college, "Veronica, you can't determine what you are born into, but you can determine what you will become with the leadership skills our parents gave us." I took her advice and have kept, and will keep, moving forward until I become what I have determined I will become: a successful Hispanic business leader.

With the help of the Hispanic College Fund Board of Trustees and the generous financial support of Eddie Bauer, I am on my way.

Once again, thank you and good evening. ●

#### WHITE HOUSE'S CEREMONY HONORING EIGHT NEW YORK CITY POLICE OFFICERS FOR BEING AMONG THE NATION'S TOP COPS

● Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, today this nation takes time to honor the deeds of some of our bravest public servants, the men and women who make up this country's federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies and departments. These officers are the guardians of our safety, the protectors of our hearths and homes. Often in harm's way, they are the ever-vigilant heroes of our communities, towns and cities.

These words particularly ring true when they are applied to the eight New York City Police Department officers who are among those honored here today. In July 1997, Officers Joseph Dolan, Michael Keenan, David Marinez, Mario Zorovic, Sergeant John English, Jr., Lieutenant Owen McCaffrey, Deputy Inspector Raymond McDermott, and Captain Ralph Pascullo prevented two men from attempting to blow up a portion of New York City's subway system with homemade pipe bombs.

These eight officers spearheaded a team that entered the apartment where these two men lived. Once inside, the officers disabled these men and recovered four unexploded pipe bombs. Their bravery and professionalism undoubtedly saved countless lives and prevented a bloody catastrophe.

I am extremely proud of these men and take great pride in calling them New York City's finest. ●

#### COMMENDING JUDY LEWIS

● Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I bring to the Senate's attention that October 16 is World Food Day. As the largest international food aid organization in the world, the United Nations World Food Program feeds 52.9 million people in 84 countries and deserves special recognition.